WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An isolated polynucleotide comprising a member selected from the group consisting of:

       (a)   a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide as set forth in Figure 1.

       (b)   a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide expressed by the DNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. _____;

       (c)   a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing to and which is at least 70% identical to the polynucleotide of (a) or (b); and

       (d)   a polynucleotide fragment of the polynucleotide of (a), (b) or (c).

2.   The polynucleotide of Claim 1 encoding the polypeptide of Figure 1.

3.   The polynucleotide of Claim 1 wherein said polynucleotide encodes a mature polypeptide encoded by the DNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. _____.

4.   A vector containing the polynucleotide of Claim 1.

5.   A host cell genetically engineered with the vector of Claim 4.

6.   A process for producing a polypeptide comprising: expressing from the host cell of Claim 5 the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide.

7.   A process for producing cells capable of expressing a polypeptide comprising genetically engineering cells with the vector of Claim 4.

8.   A polypeptide selected from the group consisting of (i) a polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence of

Figure 1 and fragments, analogs and derivatives thereof; and (ii) a polypeptide encoded by the cDNA of ATCC Deposit No. _____ and fragments, analogs and derivatives of said polypeptide.

9.   The polypeptide of Claim 8 wherein the polypeptide has the deduced amino acid sequence of Figure 1.

10.   An antibody against the polypeptide of claim 8.

11.   A compound which activates the polypeptide of claim 8.

12.   A compound which inhibits activation of the polypeptide of claim 8.

13.   A method for the treatment of a patient having need to activate a receptor comprising: administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 11.

14.   A method for the treatment of a patient having need to inhibit a receptor comprising: administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 12.

15.   The method of claim 13 wherein said compound is a polypeptide and a therapeutically effective amount of the compound is administered by providing to the patient DNA encoding said agonist and expressing said agonist *in vivo*.

16.   The method of claim 14 wherein said compound is a polypeptide and a therapeutically effective amount of the compound is administered by providing to the patient DNA

encoding said antagonist and expressing said antagonist *in vivo*.

17. A method for identifying a compound which bind to and activate the polypeptide of claim 8 comprising:

contacting a compound with cells expressing on the surface thereof the polypeptide of claim 8, said polypeptide being associated with a second component capable of providing a detectable signal in response to the binding of a compound to said polypeptide said contacting being under conditions sufficient to permit binding of compounds to the polypeptide; and

identifying a compound capable of polypeptide binding by detecting the signal produced by said second component.

18. A method for identifying compounds which bind to and inhibit activation of the polypeptide of claim 8 comprising:

contacting an analytically detectable ligand known to bind to the receptor polypeptide and a compound with host cells expressing on the surface thereof the polypeptide of claim 8, said polypeptide being associated with a second component capable of providing a detectable signal in response to the binding of a compound to said polypeptide under conditions to permit binding to the polypeptide; and

determining whether the ligand binds to the polypeptide by detecting the absence of a signal generated from the interaction of the ligand with the polypeptide.

19. A process for diagnosing in a patient a disease or a susceptibility to a disease related to an under-expression of the polypeptide of claim 8 comprising:

determining a mutation in the nucleic acid sequence encoding said polypeptide, or the amount of the polypeptide in a sample derived from a patient.

20.   A diagnostic process comprising:

analyzing for the presence of a soluble form of the polypeptide of claim 8 in a sample derived from a host.